



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

October 8, 2008

Dear Sir/Madam:

This letter transmits the Draft Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) (DOE/EIS-0396), prepared by the Department of Energy (DOE) pursuant to the *National Environmental Policy Act* of 1969, as amended (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality NEPA Implementing Regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures (10 CFR Part 1021).

The proposed GNEP Program, which is part of the President's Advanced Energy Initiative, is intended to support a safe, secure, and sustainable expansion of nuclear energy, both domestically and internationally. Domestically, the GNEP Program would promote technologies that support economic, sustained production of nuclear-generated electricity, while reducing the impacts associated with spent nuclear fuel disposal. The GNEP PEIS provides an analysis of the potential environmental impacts of expanding nuclear power in the U.S. using either the existing fuel cycle or various alternative closed and open fuel cycles. In a closed fuel cycle, spent nuclear fuel would be recycled to recover energy-bearing components for use in new nuclear fuel. DOE's preference is to close the nuclear fuel cycle, although a specific preferred alternative has not yet been identified.

A Notice of Availability for the Draft PEIS will be published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the *Federal Register*, expected on October 17, 2008. That notice will begin a 60-day public comment period on the Draft GNEP PEIS. During the comment period, DOE will hold public hearings at 13 locations:

Monday, November 17, 7:00 p.m.

Lea County Event Center
5101 North Lovington-Hobbs Hwy
Hobbs, New Mexico 88240

Monday, November 17, 7:00 p.m.

Red Lion Hotel
2525 North 20th Avenue
Pasco, Washington 99301

Tuesday, November 18, 9:00 a.m.

Pecos River Village Conference Center
Carousel House
711 Muscatel Avenue
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88220

Tuesday, November 18, 7:00 p.m.

Eastern New Mexico University-
Roswell
Occupational Technology Center
Seminar Room 124
20 West Mathis
Roswell, New Mexico 88130

Tuesday, November 18, 7:00 p.m.

Hood River Inn – Gorge Room
1108 East Marina Way
Hood River, Oregon 97031

Thursday, November 20, 7:00 p.m.

Hilltop House Best Western
400 Trinity Drive (at Central)
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

Thursday, November 20, 7:00 p.m.

Hilton Garden Inn
700 Lindsay Boulevard
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402

Monday, December 1, 7:00 p.m.

Carson Four Rivers Center
Myre River Room
100 Kentucky Avenue
Paducah, Kentucky 42003



Tuesday, December 2, 7:00 p.m.
Vern Riffe Career Technology Center
175 Beaver Creek Road
Piketon, Ohio 45661

Tuesday, December 2, 7:00 p.m.
New Hope Center
602 Scarboro Rd, Corner of New Hope and
Scarboro Roads
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

Thursday, December 4, 7:00 p.m.
Holiday Inn Bolingbrook
205 Remington Blvd.
Bolingbrook, Illinois 60440

Thursday, December 4, 7:00 p.m.
Aiken Technical College
Building 700 – Amphitheater
2276 Jefferson Davis Highway
Graniteville, South Carolina 29829

Tuesday, December 9, 1:00 p.m.
Holiday Inn Capitol
550 C Street SW
Washington, DC 20024

The Draft PEIS and additional information about the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership can be found on the following website: www.gnep.energy.gov. Requests for information may be made through this website as well as via a toll-free number, 1-866-645-7803. In addition, the Draft GNEP PEIS and information related to NEPA are available on the DOE NEPA Website at www.gc.energy.gov/NEPA.

You are invited to comment on this Draft PEIS during the 60-day comment period and to attend the public meetings. Comments may be submitted by:

Internet – www.regulations.gov (please see attachment with instructions)
Facsimile – 866-489-1891
Oral statements presented at public meetings, to be transcribed by DOE
Written comments sent to:
Mr. Francis Schwartz, GNEP PEIS Document Manager
Office of Nuclear Energy (NE-5), U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585-0119

Thank you for your continuing interest in Department of Energy activities.

Sincerely,



Dennis R. Spurgeon
Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy

Encl.

How to Comment on GNEP PEIS at Regulations.Gov

The Draft GNEP PEIS is available on the Internet at www.regulations.gov. The Draft GNEP PEIS, references and additional information regarding the GNEP Program are available on the Internet at www.gnep.energy.gov.

To comment electronically on the Internet, visit www.regulations.gov.

From the home page of Regulations.Gov, look for the "More Search Options" on the right hand side of the screen.

- Select "Go". You will then be automatically taken to a new screen titled "More Search Options".
- In the middle of the screen, find the option "Search by Agency". You will then type "DOE" and select go.
- On the left hand side of this new screen, you will see options to Narrow Results. Go to "Comment Period Ends" and select "Open" and this will display all documents open for comment.
- Select DOE Global Nuclear Energy Partnership Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement. You can view the document as a pdf or an HTML.
- To submit a comment, select send a comment or submission under the title.
- A submission form will appear for the commenter to complete.

About Comments:

- You can type your comments in the General Comments box provided on the comment form. There is no limit to the number of characters that you can type in this box.
- Should you like to send an attachment: You can attach electronic files with your text comments. To view the file types accepted by Regulations.gov, click the Learn More text. You can attach as many files as you wish. Regulations.gov will show a message when you have successfully uploaded a file. However, you must continue submitting the comment, by clicking on the "Next Step" button, in order for the file to be submitted to the agency. Individual submissions are limited to 10MB (10,000KB). To submit files greater than 5MB, compress the attached file(s) using file compression software or submit each attachment separately using multiple submissions